ABSTRACT

The contact switch assembly comprises a rotating housing with a stalk having a hollow shaft portion, a tip portion extending forwardly from the shaft portion and a contact arm extending downwardly from the shaft portion. The tip portion extends out from the housing to engage an adjacent inclined surface. As the housing is rotated, the stalk moves along the inclined surface so that the contact arm is moved vertically and brought into engagement with a printed circuit board (PCB) while simultaneously moving laterally across the PCB's surface. The vertical motion is caused by the rotation of the housing, while the lateral motion is caused by the stalk being forced laterally by the inclined surface. The combination of both the vertical and lateral motion provides a self-cleaning mechanism by the movement of the contacts in the lateral direction.